estimated that quality deterioration and loss in value that take place are about 25 to 30% in some fruits and vegetables, due to inadequacy of post harvest infrastructure and perishability of the produce. However, since substantial quantities of fruits and vegetables are utilised in house-hold and unorganised sector for preservation etc., the net unutilised quantity may not exceed 5%.

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has formulated various plan schemes for implementation during the 8th Plan period for the development of fruits and Vegetables processing industries, the details of which are given in the statement *(see* below), Similar schemes are proposed to be continued in the 9th Five Year Plan.

**Statement**

*Details of the Plan Schemes Formulated for Implementation during the Eighth Plan Period*

| s. No. | Name of the Plan Schemes |
|---|---|
| 1. | Scheme for Food Processing and Training Centres in Rural Areas. |
| 1 | Scheme for Assistance to State Government Undertakings and Cooperatives for Establishing or Upgrading of Fruit and Vegetable Processing facilities. |
| 3. | Scheme for strengthening backward linkages for the Fruit and Vegetable Processing Industries. |
| 4. | Scheme for Development of infrastructure for Mushroom cultivation and processing. |
| 5. | Scheme for development and processing of hops, |
| 6. | Scheme for generic advertising of processing food and for providing marketing assistance. |
| 7. | Scheme for research and development in food and vegetable processing. |
| S. jNo. | Name of the Plan Schemes |
| 8. | Assistance for infrastructure for fruit and vegetable products (From 1993-94). |

**Proposal to change Food Products Order**

502. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to change Food Products Order as reported in Economic Times dated 9th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons for the change; and

(c) how will it be ensured that synthetics used are not health hazards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) The Government has recently amended Fruit Products Order of 1955 and notified in the Gazette vide S.O.No. 1530 dated 24th June, 1997.

(b) The amendments were necessitated by the need of the processed food industry to promote innovation in product mix, ensure quality and good manufacturing practices, cut down procedural delays and redundancy, and protect consumers' interest.

(c) Only those synthetic additives are allowed to be used which are found to be non-hazardous to health.

**Assistance to cooperatives for promotion of FPI in Maharashtra**

503. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minster of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended financial assistance to the cooperatives for promotion of food